

Co-chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Currey, Ranking Members Representative McCarty and Representative Berthel, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Angel Velazquez, a sophomore at New Britain High School and I live in New Britain, CT . I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning School Resource Officers.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure, and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

This law would help me feel safe. With the money that is being used to fund SRO's we can use it for more translators in our classes. In my point of view, I can see that there is fear in students with the presence of police. With armed police in our schools, who knows what can happen. One of my biggest fears is that a student snatches the gun from the police officer and shoots another student.

On top of this, we do need social workers. The majority of New Britain is Spanish speaking and only one of the four social workers in NBHS are Spanish speaking when there is about 2,000+ students in our school.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that centers students' social-emotional well-being through care, resources, learning, and restoration.

Thank you for your time,

Angel Velazquez